

A strategic approach -
identifying and protecting
marine biodiversity in the
Hauraki Gulf

Warwick Murray
Department of Conservation



Background

- Numerous marine reserve proposals
- Stakeholders reactions varied

Key stakeholder concerns

- Site selection *ad hoc*
- Stakeholder input into site selection lacking
- No scientific proof that marine reserves “work”
- Lack of overall plan for MPAs in Hauraki Gulf
- No account of other uses/users e.g. customary interests, fishers, aquaculture, cable zones etc



There's got to be a better way!

Any new approach must:

- Be more strategic – regionally
- Be based on good information
- Have regard for competing interests
- Fully involve all stakeholders
- Be integrated with other planning processes

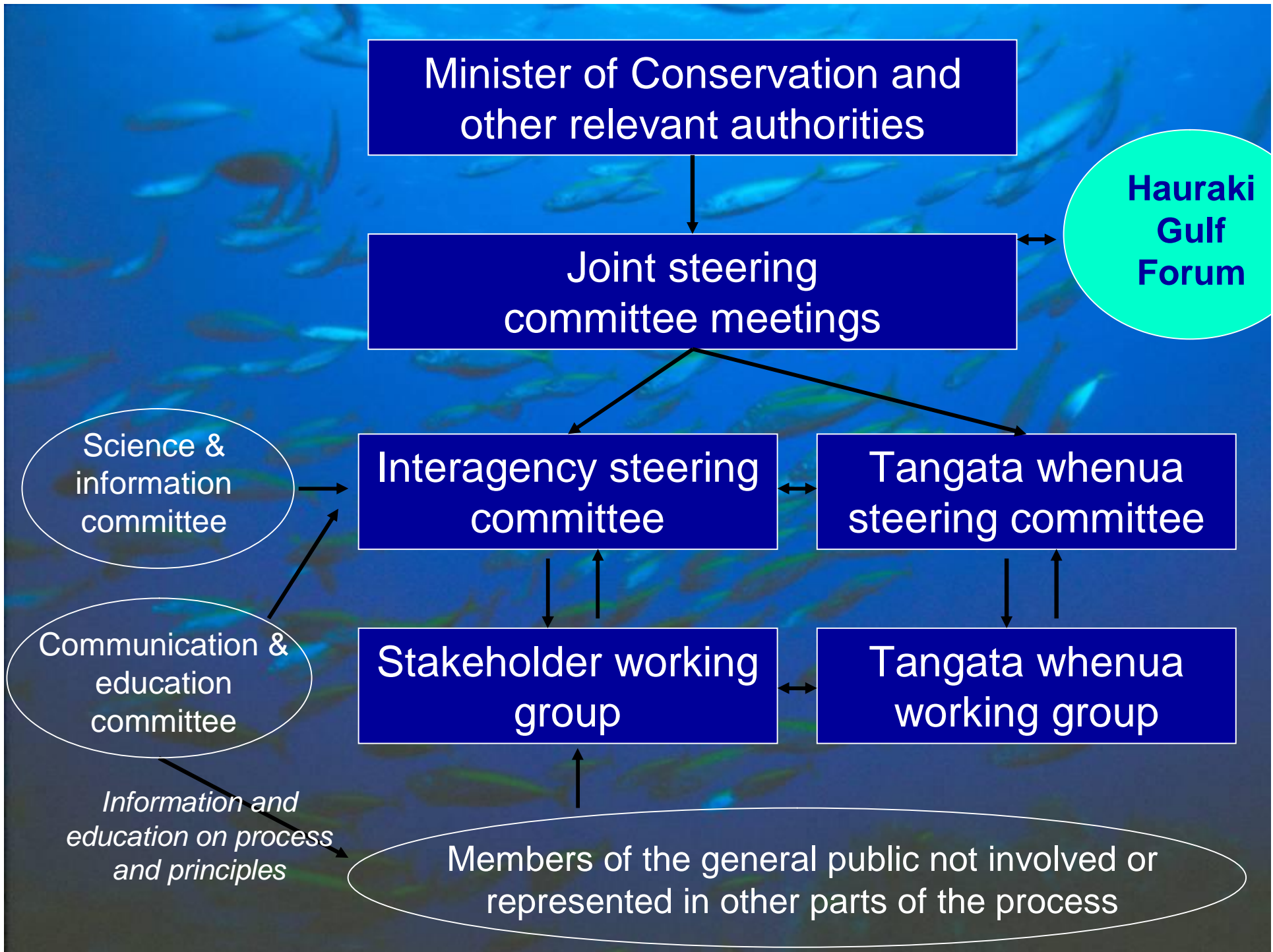
MPA Policy

- Draft DOC/MinFish MPA Policy & Implementation Plan objective
- Currently with Ministers
Awaiting Cabinet approval
- Still some criticisms



Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Plan

- The objective:
 - *Establish a network of marine protected areas that protects biodiversity in the Hauraki Gulf*
- A multi-agency approach
- Aims to involve iwi, communities and stakeholder groups - from an early stage
- Incorporates other planning and other resource allocation processes.



Benefits of Plan

- Strategic, not *ad hoc*
- Uses improved data and classifications systems
- Representative not achievability
- More likely to reflect all stakeholder interests
- Increased marine awareness & marine conservation
- Encourages interagency co-operation and builds relationships

Feedback from stakeholders

- RCs, TAs & MFish support for proposal – first Steering Committee meeting held
- Hauraki Gulf Forum resolved to support & assist
- Consultation with iwi & hapu underway, initial response indicating iwi wish to be involved
- Stakeholder groups including Option4, NZU & others have expressed interest

A large school of fish swimming in clear blue water. The fish are densely packed and appear to be of various species, including some with yellow stripes. The background is a deep, clear blue.

Timing

- Expected to take up to 5 years to complete

